(b) The details of the Projects set up in Tripura are as follows:

(i) A Pineapple Processing Plant at Nalkata, District Dhalai was commissioned in the year 1988 with an installed capacity of 48 MT per day at a cost of Rs. 3.62 crore. The Plant was commissioned only for Pineapple Juice Concentrate and is functional for seasonal production. It produces Pineapple Juice Concentrate, Pineapple Pulp during harvesting season of pineapple. The Plant has an aseptic filler for packaging the finished product in natural form without any chemical preservative. The PJC plant at Nalkata generates employment of around 20,000 man days per year during season and regularly employs 23 persons.

(ii) A Cashew Processing Plant was set up in Arundhati Nagar Industrial Estate in Agartala as a cost of around 10 lakhs with an installed capacity of 500 kgs raw cashew nut per day. The plant was commissioned in 1993-94 and started production in 1994-95. The Cashew nut Processing Plant at Agartala also generate employment of 7,500 man days per year and provides regular employment to 3 persons.

(c) and (d) The production in the Pineapple Processing Project over the last two years has gone up. However, the plant has been running on loss right from its inception. In view of this NERAMAC has commissioned a turnaround study for the Corporation which also includes the Pineapple Processing Plant at Nalkata.

India's rank in the World Education Sector

*176. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the place of India in the World ranking in the realm of education currently;

(b) whether the place of India in the ranking is continuously sliding downwards; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by the Government to avoid this downward slide in the ranking among the countries of the world in the realm of education?

THE MINSITER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) the place of India in the world ranking in the realm of education among 127 nations in Education For All (EFA) is 106th according to UNESCO's Global Monitoring Report for 2005.

(b) the EFA Development Index of India was 0.658 in the 2003-04 Global Monitoring Report and 18 countries were below India among the 94 participating countries which has increased to 0.696 in the 2005 Global Monitoring Report with 21 countries below India among 127 participating countries.

(c) to improve the ranking of this country and enhance the EFA Development Index the following steps have been taken by the Government—

- (ii) the foremost amongst them is the amendment of the Constitution through the Constitution of India (86th Amendment) act, 2002, through which free and compulsory education has become a Fundamental Right for children in the age group 6-14 years.
- (ii) In addition, the following schemes are being implemented to provide education facilities to all children in the 6-14 age group including out of school children & dropouts in all States/UTs.
- Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA): This scheme aims at providing useful and relevant elementary education for all children in the 6 to 14 age group by 2010 as well as to bridge social, regional and gender gaps, with the active participation of the community in the management of schools. Interventions for early childhood care and education, recruitment of female teachers, provision of free textbooks to girls, opening and upgradation of schools to improve access to education, involvement of women through a participatory process in the effective management of schools and, 'the Mahila Samakhya type' of interventions that help attain the objective of gender parity. The National Programme for Education of Girls at the Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and the Kasturba Gandhi Balika

Vidhyalaya (KGBV) are being implemented as part of the SSA to promote universalisation of elementary education among girls belonging to the disadvantaged sections of society.

- the Educations Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education: This scheme was launched from the 1st April 2001 to provide access to school-less habitations. The scheme also supports flexible strategies for out of school children including bridge courses, residential camps, 'drop in' centers, summer camps and remedial coaching.
- (iii) Mid-day-Meal Scheme: The scheme was initially launched in 1995-96 with the objective of providing a boost to the efforts of uiversalisation of primary education by increasing enrolment and retention by reducing dropouts and simultaneously impacting on the nutrition levels of students in primary classes.
- The National Literacy Mission (NLM) was set up in 1988 to impart functional literacy to non-literates in the age group of 15-35 years in a time bound manner. The aim of the NLM is to achieve a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007.

Trial of cases under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

*177. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exclusive special courts have been set-up by the Central Government and the State Governments for speedy trial of cases under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise including Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the number of cases filed, the percentage of pendency and convictions, State-wise as on date; and

(d) the reasons for the low percentage of convictions?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: (a) and (b) As per the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Central Government/State Government in consultation with the High Court may